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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 000452

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/20/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [ASEC](#) [GV](#)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT INTERVENES IN SAM SOUMAH ARREST

REF: CONAKRY 0446

Classified By: A/DCM SHANNON CAZEAU FOR REASON 1.4 B AND D

¶1. (C) The deputy commander of the gendarme prison PM3 told RSO LES that the former Secretary General of the Presidency, Sam Soumah, was released from prison at 17:00 on August 19. Soumah had been arrested the day before (reftel). According to contact, President Conte called PM3 and ordered the gendarmes to bring Soumah to the president's office. The PM3 commander reportedly escorted Soumah to the presidency. Contact did not know what happened to Soumah after he left gendarme custody.

COMMENT

¶2. (C) It is unclear as to whether Soumah has been released or remains in custody at the presidential palace. However, during a public diplomacy event on August 20, union leader Mme Serah Rabiato Diallo told A/DCM that Soumah had been freed. END COMMENT.
BROKENSHIRE